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TROPICAL DISTURBANCES OF OCTOBER 1940

By JEAN H. GALLENNÉ

[Weather Bureau, Washington, November 1940]

October 20-23.—The earliest indications of this disturbance were contained in an observation from the S. S. *Cristobal* during the evening of October 20. The vessel, which was a short distance north of the Canal Zone at that time, reported that she experienced cloudy weather with southwest wind, force 5 (Beaufort Scale) and a barometer reading of 1,008 millibars (29.77 inches).

The depression progressed in a northwesterly direction and was centered near latitude $11^{\circ}30'$ N., longitude $79^{\circ}30'$ W., on the morning of the 21st. Later that day reports of high winds and gales, accompanied by moderate to heavy rains, were received from several vessels in the central Caribbean. The Honduran S. S. *Contessa* reported a barometer reading of 995.3 millibars (29.39 inches) and northeast gales, force 9, with very rough seas, near latitude $12^{\circ}35'$ N., longitude $80^{\circ}25'$ W., during the afternoon of October 21. The lowest barometer, 982.7 millibars (29.02 inches) was read on the Hawaiian S. S. *Contessa* during the morning of the 22d in lat. $12^{\circ}50'$ N., longitude $81^{\circ}45'$ W.

The disturbance continued to move in a northwesterly direction during the next 36 hours, attended by fresh to strong gales.

At 7:30 a. m. of October 23, the center of the disturbance was located near $14^{\circ}15'$ N., $82^{\circ}45'$ W., from which point it curved to the west and southwest, passing inland a short distance to the south of Puerto Cabezas. A report received by the Standard Fruit Co. indicates that considerable damage occurred on the northern coast of Nicaragua.

October 24-26.—On the morning charts of October 24, an area of low barometric pressure was general in the vicinity of the Greater Antilles. Subsequent ships' reports of that day indicated that a slight disturbance, 1,008 millibars (29.77 inches), with definite cyclonic wind circulation, had formed southeast of Inagua. The depression moved toward the north and north-northeast for a period of about 12 hours, then recurved sharply to the northeast and was centered near latitude 25° N., longitude $70^{\circ}30'$ W., on the morning of the 25th. During the following day it moved very rapidly over the extra-tropical waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, where, due to a lack of vessel reports, its identity was lost near 35° N., 55° W.

From reports at hand, indications are that no unusually low barometer readings were noted.

No reports of loss of life were received in connection with these disturbances, and it is very doubtful if either developed to hurricane strength.

Timely warnings and advisories were issued by the forecast center at Jacksonville, Fla., covering the movements of both disturbances.

A chart showing their tracks is herewith.



Tracks of tropical storms of October 1940.